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The Christopher Train
Prize Essays
2011

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Introduction

In 2008, in memory of our former Chairman, Christopher Train, the Society established an annual competition for essays/papers on any aspect of local history and archaeology in S.W. Shropshire. Last year (2010) there were three categories of entry – Adults; School Students 11-18; and School Students (under 11). The winners were:

<i>Adult:</i>	Nicholas Harding (Bishop's Castle):
<i>Secondary School Students:</i>	Daniel Franklin (Bishop's Castle):
<i>Primary School Students:</i>	Emily Williams (Lower Down)

The society's policy is, when possible, to publish the winning entries, through our Journal or in a separate publication.

I congratulate this year's winners, and hope that, as you read their entries, you will be inspired to reach for *your* pen and take part in this year's competitions (or encourage others to do so) – entries to our Secretary not later than 1st December 2011 - details of competition from David Preshous (01588 638363). *To date, we have had relatively few entries in each category. We should love to have more – don't be shy!*

David Preshous OBE,
SWSHAS President

The Christopher Train Memorial Shields

The Society has established an annual competition for papers on any aspect of local history and archaeology in South West Shropshire to honour the memory of Christopher Train CB, late Chairman of the Society. The competition is open to all comers and consists of three categories -

1. For adults.
2. For Secondary School students (11-18 years).
3. For Primary School students.

Adult entries which should be previously unpublished and show evidence of original research, should not exceed 3000 words. Illustrations, maps, etc, may be included. School students (Primary and Secondary) may enter any original project work or essay (any length) on a local historical or archaeological subject. The SWSHAS Committee will appoint a panel to judge the entries, and the winners announced and trophies presented on the occasion of the annual Ritherdon Lecture (usually held in April). The winner in each category will receive a Shield to be held for that year, as well as a prize of £30. The winning entries may be published in the Society's *Journal*, or as Occasional Papers, and the winners will be asked to provide electronic copies of their work including illustrations; the authors will retain publication rights. The Society will retain a copy of each entry for its own records.

Entries must be submitted not later than 1st December 2011 to the Society's Secretary: Mrs. Joye Minshall, 4 Alvaston Way, Rivermead, Monkmoor Road, Shrewsbury, SY2 5TJ.

(e-mail: jminshall29@btinternet.com) tel: 01743 235 907).

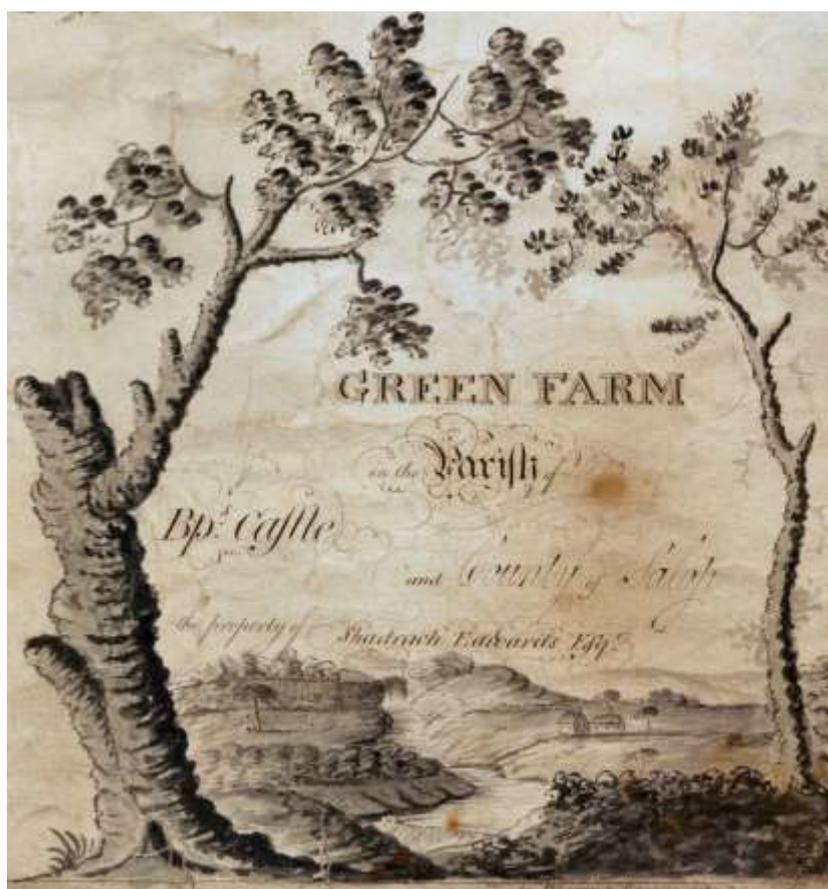
Entries should be submitted anonymously (the author's name and address being enclosed in a separate sealed envelope).



*Dr Nicholas Harding,
Daniel Franklin &
Emily Williams,
winners of the 2011
Chris Train Memorial Shields with
Dr Nick Howells, Chairman of the Society and
Mrs Sheila Train
who presented the shields and prizes.*

Cwm Iago and Green Farm, Township of Broughton, in the Parish of Bishop's Castle.

Nicholas Harding PhD, is a former Professor of Mathematics in the State University of New York and is now the proprietor of the Kangaroo Inn, Aston on Clun, genealogist and alpaca farmer.



Introduction

Two miles west of Bishop's Castle on the Montgomery Road (B4385), standing between two groups of ancient homesteads straggling both sides of the road, lies the Methodist *Green Chapel* (Fig. 1). To the west are *Upper, Middle and Lower Aston Farms* in Montgomeryshire and to the east, in Shropshire, *Broughton, Lower Broughton and Upper Broughton Farms* (Fig. 2). Opposite is *Plas Madoc*. Today there is no indication on the ground or on any current OS map of the origin of *Green* in the chapel's name. The primary purpose of this paper is to provide an explanation for the name and, secondly, to resolve the name of a near-by smallholding known as *Beech-o-Cwmago*.

Early history of the area

This ancient area is divided by complex political and ecclesiastical boundaries. The English - Welsh border, fixed in 1536, crosses the area following medieval hedges as it climbs up Aston Hill only picking up the Kerry Ridgeway at Bishop's Moat after traversing the northern boundaries of several narrow fields opposite Moat Hill (Fig. 2). In addition to being part of the Montgomeryshire - Shropshire border, the short hedge dividing the front meadow of Burnt House and Plas Madoc Cottage also separates Bishop's Castle Parish from Lydham Parish: part of the Welsh portion of Lydham enclosing Aston Township. (Detached until 1 April 1934 when Bishop's Castle Rural, containing Broughton Township, was abolished.)



Fig. 1 Green Chapel & Cottage

In 1086 Aston (*Estune*), containing two hides, was attached to Montgomery in the hundred of Wittery along with nearby Castlewright (*Cestelop*) and Mellington (*Mulitune*). These manors were part of the Shropshire holdings of *Roger de Montgomerie*, Earl of Shrewsbury, a powerful Norman kinsman of William the Conqueror, and prior to the conquest were held by the Saxons, Siward, Oslac and Azor from King Edward; they were waste before and at the time of the Domesday survey. Siward was a major Shropshire landowner. His hall and wooden chapel dedicated to St Peter were located on the site of Earl Roger's Abbey church in what is now Abbey Foregate.

Earl Roger died in 1094 and was succeeded by his son Hugh who in turn was succeeded by his brother Robert in 1098. Robert sided with Duke Robert of Normandy against his brother King Henry I and subsequently was deprived of all his English holdings. The Lordship of Montgomery was granted by Henry to Baldwin de Boulers, a Fleming from Boelare, Flanders, who had married Henry's daughter, Sybil de Falaise. Baldwin's stepson Stephen (slain by Llywelyn ap Madog of Powys in 1152) and grandsons Robert and Baldwin succeeded him. Montgomery's Welsh name of *Trefaldwyn* (a mutation from Tre Baldwin) arose from this family.

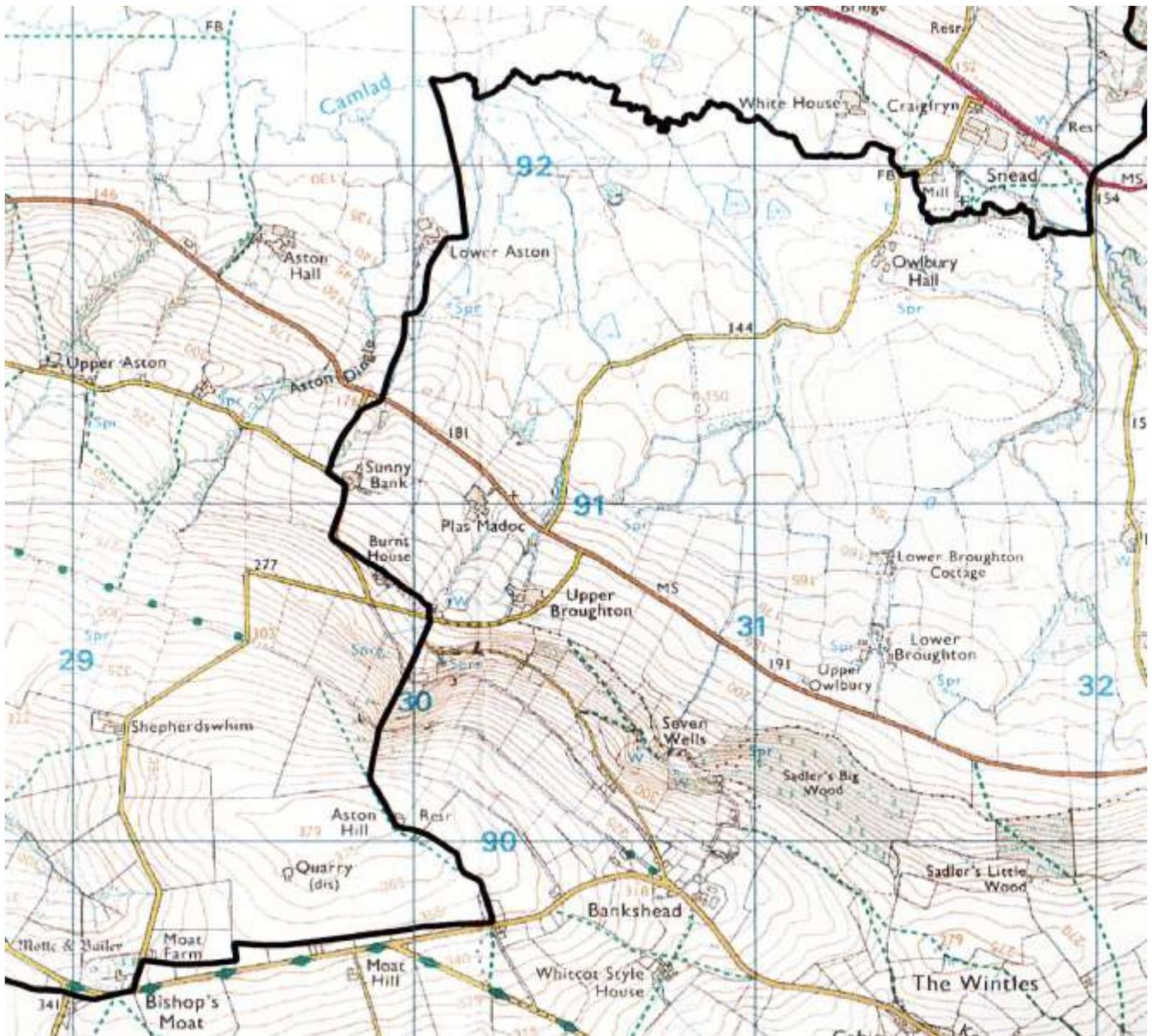


Fig. 2 Aston Montgomeryshire & Broughton Shropshire. Dark line: English-Welsh border [1] © Crown copyright

Some time after 1203 Giles de Braose, Bishop of Hereford, acquired the three manors from William de Boulers, son of Robert de Boulers, and subsequently these holdings were known as 'Teirtref Esgog (the Bishop's Three Towns). Ownership of the manors was in dispute for much of the turbulent 13th century, but in 1255

... the Chirbury Jurors reported the vill of Aston Kelmund [Kelmund = Camlad] as 'alienated and withdrawn', so as to be in no respect amenable to the Honour of Montgomery. Hence also, at the same date, the Purslow Jurors made Eston [Aston] and Burhton [Broughton] to be a single manor, consisting of a hide of land, and held under the Bishop of Hereford's Honour of Ledbury [Lydbury] North. [2]

Aston at this time was part of the 'wild west' frontier which the Marches had become during the Plantagenet era, and along with other Montgomery holdings was seized by Llewellyn the Last (Llywelyn Ein Llyw Olaf (c.1223 – 11 December 1282)) in the late 1260s:

The Prince [Llewellyn, Prince of Wales] occupies and holds the vill of Aston Kelemond and half the vill of Casteleruht [Castlewright] and half of Muliton [Mellington], which pertains to the same honour [Montgomery]; whereby the King suffers a yearly loss of 40s. [3]

Almost certainly at the time of Domesday, Broughton was a member of the very large manor of Lydbury North in Rinlow (later Purslow) Hundred held by the Bishop of Hereford. Eyton states:

The possession of Lydbury North may also be said to have made a Lord Marcher of every Bishop of Hereford till Wales was conquered. The foundation of Bishop's Castle was a fendal obligation, no less a secular precaution, and to protect or control the tenantry of more than 18,000 acres. [4]

In 1255 one of the tenants of the joint manor of Broughton and Aston was Walter fitz Madoc, a grandson of Madoc the Monk (Madoc de Overs). By the year 1316, **Walter's son, Walter de Burghton, was Lord of the vill of Burghton** [5]. Descendants of this family had possession of Broughton for several centuries. In 1568, *Richard Broughton, Esq., of Broughton and Owlbury, near Bishop's Castle, was admitted of the Inner Temple* [6]. By this date, the possessions of the See of Hereford had been confiscated by Queen Elizabeth, and Broughton had become a Crown possession, which was granted, along with other properties, to **Richard Broughton. Richard's daughter married Edmund Waring, and Broughton** remained in the hands of the Warings until 1768, when Walter Waring sold his properties in the township of Broughton to Lord Clive. The 1756 estate map prepared by the surveyor, Meredith Jones of Brecon, for the sale of Upper Broughton is held in the Powis Estate collection of the Shropshire Archives, and is a very colourful and beautifully executed drawing showing the buildings in three dimensional perspective. [7]

Green Farm

On 19 June 1880 Emma Owen paid £11.1.0 duty on property inherited from her father, Isaac Maddox, who had died the previous year. The property consisting of a freehold messuage, outbuildings, three cottages, gardens and about 22 acres of land was called *The Green* [8]. The main house was in the occupation of John Davies (rent £65) and the cottages were leased to Samuel Mansell (£5), George Owen (£4) and Richard Harris (£4).

In 1841 Isaac Maddox, Emma's paternal grandfather, purchased from the Rev. John Meredith Edwards a property called *Cwm Iago otherwise the Green in Broughton in the parish of Bishop's Castle in the county of Salop* [9]. The census of that year has Isaac the Younger living with his father, the miller at Snead Mill. The elder Isaac died in 1845. The 1847 tithe map of Broughton Township [10] clearly shows Green Farm in the bottom left hand corner (Green Park); the individual parts are listed in the Tithe Apportionment document [11]:

MAP NUMBER	NAME	STATE OF CULTIVATION	SIZE: a.r.p [12]	TAX: £.s.d
15	Upper Ground	Pasture	9.2.4	1.3.2
16	Building & Garden		0.0.30	
17	House & Garden		0.1.32	
18	Upper Ground	Pasture	4.0.30	0.11.9
19	Buildings & Plantation		0.2.8	
20	Lower Ground	Meadow	8.0.0	1.14.4
TOTAL			22.3.24	3.9.3

Number 17 is the farm house which later became Plas Madoc Cottage and 19 the cottage to become Green Chapel Cottage when the chapel was built next to it in 1862. The land for the chapel was given by Isaac Maddox; the foundation stone was laid on 28 May 1862 and the chapel opened on 2 November of the same year [13]. It would appear from the census records that the chapel cottage was occupied for some years by the brick maker, Samuel Mansell. The brick making site was located a short distance on the west side of Owlbury Lane, known in 1901 as the Owlbury Brick & Pipe Works [14]. Today a small pond occupies the site. The new farm house, known in 1871 as Green House and in 1891 as Plas Madoc, would have been built about the same time as the chapel.

The 1808 map of the farm (Fig. 7) is devoid of any building on the Montgomery Road adjacent to the Lower Ground, and clearly shows the original farm house

and gardens; the adjacent building, which served as a piggery, is today a garden shed! Close inspection of the 1808 map shows faint pencil outlines of several plots on the Montgomery Road near to the position of the later cottage and chapel (Fig. 8). The larger of these plots has the same position and size of the later plantation, upon which the 1862 chapel was built. The map shows the lane to Owlbury directly opposite to one coming from Broughton. Some time between 1808 and 1847, the course of the lane from Broughton was moved east – to the other side of Upper Broughton farm house. The formation of the original lane (Fig. 5) can be seen to this day; the lane coming down from Plas Madoc Cottage is in a deep hollow way which changes level as it passes the old lane. The 2006 image shows how little the layout of this small holding has changed over the intervening two centuries.

In 1851 Isaac was farming 310 acres at nearby Owlbury leased from the Earl of Powis, and Richard Harris occupied Green House. Interestingly, the 1851 religious census of Shropshire contains an entry for the *Primitive Methodist Meeting House, Green* with Richard Harris as preacher. The Green was indicated to be both a meeting house and dwelling house. On census day, 46 persons attended the afternoon service [15]. It would seem that services were held in Green House, **Richard’s home in 1851 and later years.** **Occupation of the Green in the next five census years is as follows:**

YEAR	PLACE	HEAD	OCCUPATION
1861	The Green	Richard Harris	Labourer
	The Green	George Owens	Labourer
	Green	John Davis	Tailor & Draper
	Brick Kilns	Samuel Mansell	Brick maker
1871	Green Cottage	Richard Harris	Labourer
	Green House	John Davis	Farmer 170 acres
	—	Samuel Mansell	Brick maker
1881	Green Bank	Samuel Mansell	Brick & Tile maker
	—	Unoccupied	
	Little Green	Thomas Morris	Labourer
	Little Green	Richard Harris	Labourer
1891	Plas Madoc	John Mellings	Farmer
	Plas Madoc Cottage	John Roberts	Retired farmer
	—	Unoccupied	

YEAR	PLACE	HEAD	OCCUPATION
1901	Plas Madoc Cottage	John Shute	Labourer
	Plas Madoc Cottage	Thomas Jones	Cowman
	Plas Madoc Farm	Sarah Bliss	Farmer
	Masshouse Green	Unoccupied	

Clearly, Green House of 1851, The Green of 1861, Green Cottage of 1871 and Little Green of 1881 are one and same, now known, as in 1891 & 1901, as Plas Madoc Cottage, originally two and now one dwelling – the original Green Farm house. The first edition 1:2500 OS map labels the cottages as The Green (Fig. 3)

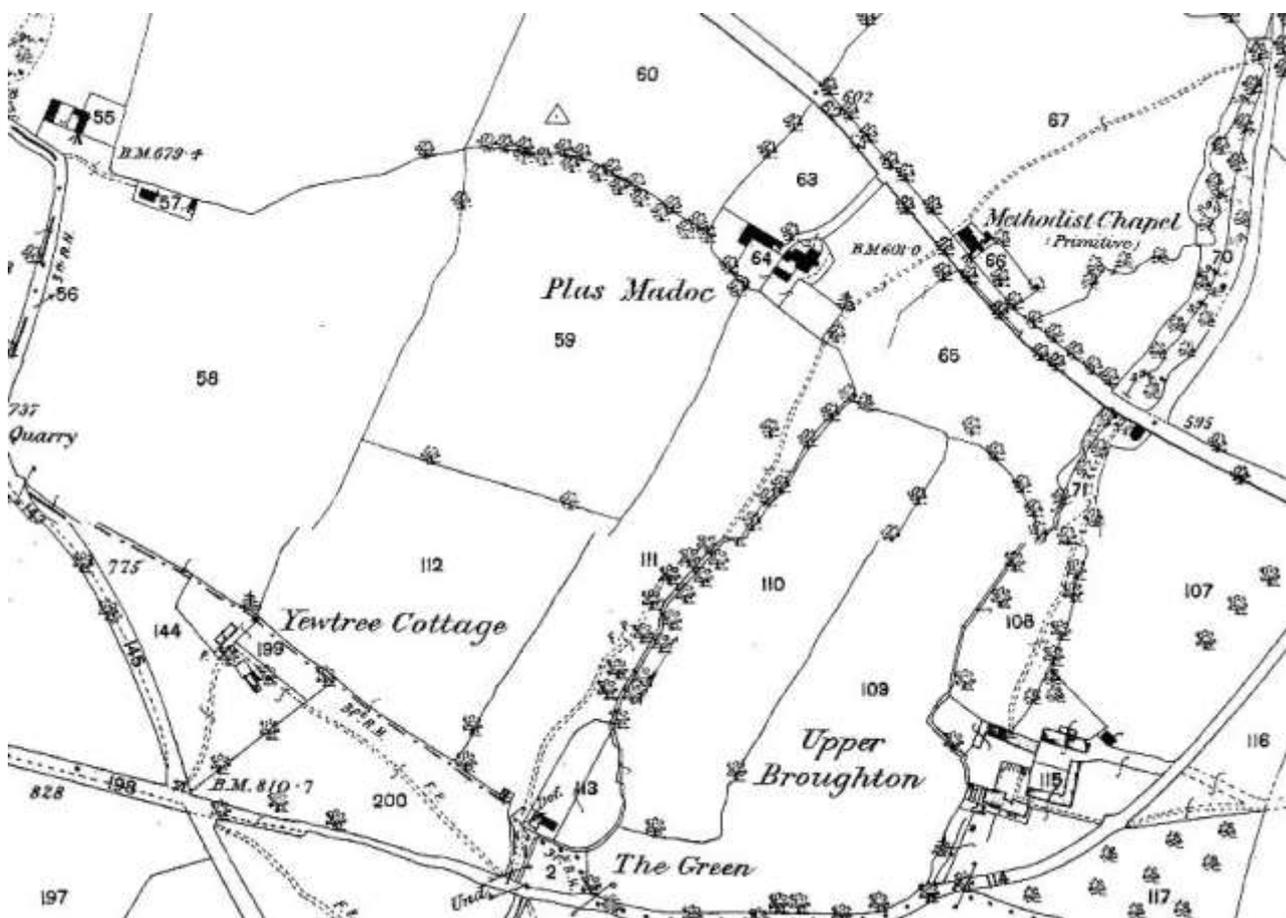


Fig. 3 OS 1884 County Series 1:2500 [16]

The Maddox family's interest in Plas Madoc came to an end in 1925 when Nesta Mary Wood (nee Morgan-Owen) and Gwendoline Morfydd Morgan-Owen, daughters of Emma Morgan-Owen (nee Maddox), sold Plas Madoc to George Edward Morgan and his sister Mary Margaret Morgan. In 1954 the Green cottages (numbers 29 & 30 Plas Madoc) and piggeries were sold off to Albert and Mrs. Annie May Collins. George Edward Morgan died in 1955 and in 1956 the

remaining part of Plas Madoc farm, totalling 21.668 acres, was sold to John Harold Hudson. The Chapel Cottage was sold separately and donated to the Methodist Church, Bishop's Castle Circuit who in turn sold it on in the 1970s. Plas Madoc was further dismembered in 1979 when a small piece adjacent to Plas Madoc cottage was sold to the owners of the cottage to provide vehicular access. In 2002, the remaining part of the estate south of the Montgomery road was purchased by the current proprietors and the lower ground on the north side sold to Upper Aston Farm.

Isaac Maddox the Elder and his wife are buried in Snead Churchyard; nearby is the grave of his granddaughter, Emma Morgan-Owen, her husband, Timothy Morgan-Owen and three of their children. Inside the church are several memorials to the Morgan-Owen family along with the hatchment (diamond shape tablet showing the coat of arms of a dead person) of John Maddox Morgan-Owen, grandson of Timothy and Emma, the first put up in Britain in the 21st century (Fig. 6).

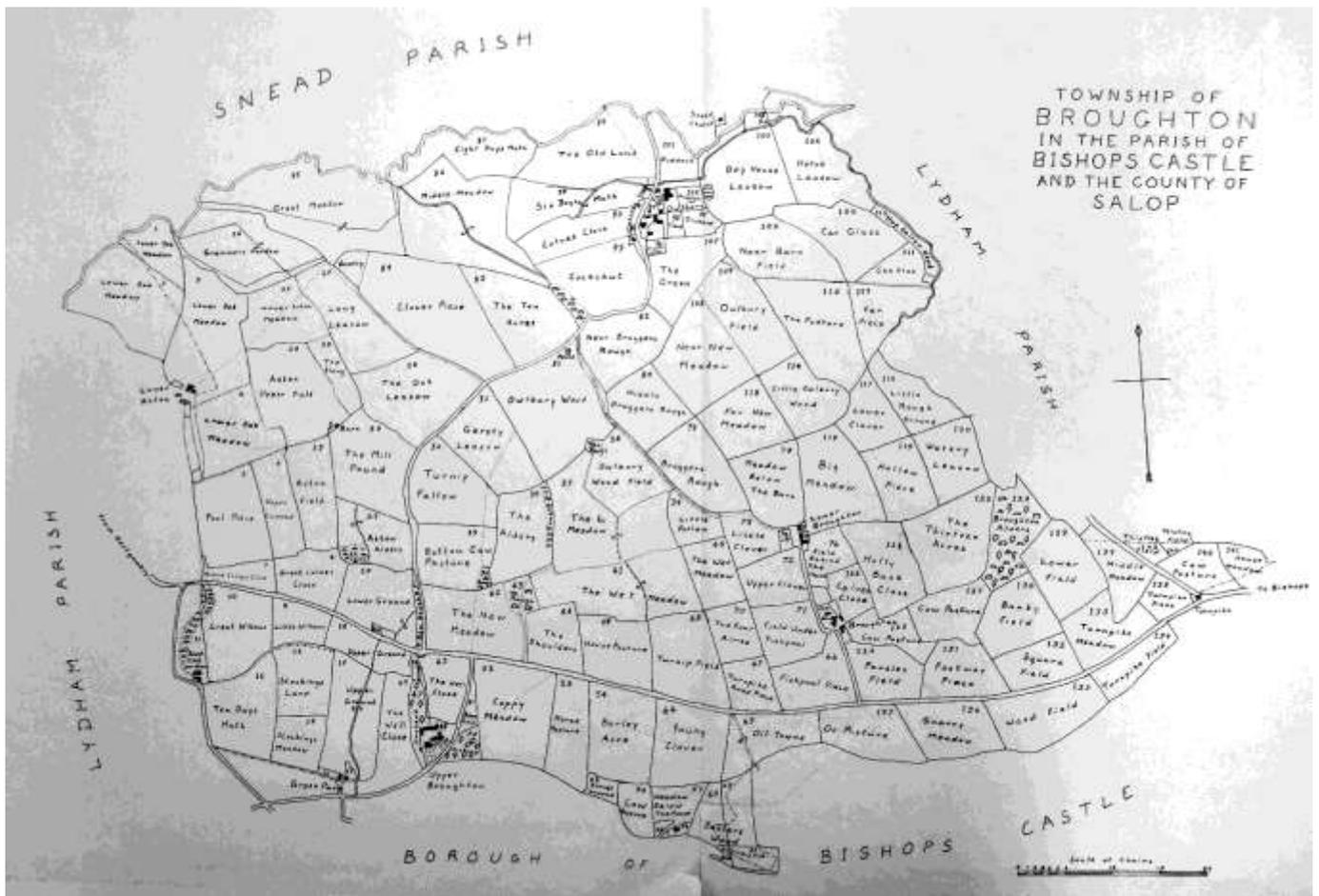


Fig. 4 Tithe Map of Broughton Township [17]



Fig. 5 1756 Estate Map of Upper Broughton [18]



Fig. 6 John Maddox Morgan-Owen Hatchment Sned Church

Cwm Iago

During the 18th century, Green Farm was known as Cwm Iago; a legal document of 1720 contains the passage:

All that Messuage Tenement and lands with the appurtenances situate and being in Broughton in the Coy of Salop then in the tenure possession or occupation of Charles Vaughan his assigns or undertenants and commonly called or known by the name of Cwm Iago ...[19]

An indenture of 1767 contains a similar statement [20]. An earlier Broughton deed dated 29 January 1632 refers to:

... messuage and tenemt called Coom Yago wherein Jones Mountfortt now dwelleth ... [21]

The 1756 map of Upper Broughton (Fig. 5) shows land on the opposite side of Broughton lane as being *Part of Cwm Iago*. It would seem that Green Farm of the 19th century was earlier part of a larger holding taking in lands now belonging to the small holding known as Beech o Cwmago; the 1847 tithe map has the name as Cwm ago; the 1851 census has three dwellings named Beach Cwmego and the 1901 six inch OS map has it as Lower Beech. Curiously, the 1841 census of Aston (Montgomeryshire) lists a dwelling with the name Cwm y ago in the occupation of the labourer John Owen.

An exemplification dated *Hilary Term 8 Geo. 3rd* (Spring 1767), contained in the Plas Madoc deeds, has the description:

One Messuage two gardens 40 acres of Land 20 acres of Meadow 40 acres of Pastures 5 acres of Wood 50 acres of Farge and Heath and common of Pasture for all manner of Cattle with the [?] in Broughton in the County of Salop [22].

Clearly this is a much more substantial property than the later 22 acre small holding.

Running through Plas Madoc is a water course originating in a spring located near Beech o Cwmago. The stream falls into a deep cutting by the side of Plas Macoc Cottage (Fig. 9). Undoubtedly, this is the origin of the name Cwm Iago - **James's Glen. Very few Welsh place names are to be found east of Offa's Dyke especially** in the midst of ancient Saxon settlements with corresponding English names; however, a mile or two to the west are Pentre, Cwm Cae, Pentre Cwm and Cwm (on the Dyke).



Fig. 7 Green Farm in 1808 [23] and in 2006 [24] ©Google Inc.



Fig. 8 Outline of plantation on 1808 map



Fig. 9 Cwm Iago

Conclusion

In the 18th century the holding now known as Plas Madoc was called Cwm Iago, and in the next century it was known as Green Farm. Isaac Maddox of Snead Mill had a cottage built on the north side of the Montgomery Road in the 1840s, possibly to support the local brick works. His son, Isaac Maddox the Younger, had a new farm house built on the southern side of the road and donated the plantation next to the cottage to the Methodist Church. In 1851, the dwelling at the Green was being used as a Methodist meeting house; eleven years later Green Chapel was built taking its name from the farm. At some time in the 1880s the name of the holding was changed to Plas Madoc to reflect the influence of the Maddox family on the development of the property. At the same time, the **original farm dwelling was renamed Plas Madoc Cottage, but the 1903 6" OS map still has it as The Green.**

The small holding across Broughton Lane from The Green is known as Beech-o-Cwmago, a name recalling a time when its lands were part of Cwm Iago. The 1903 OS map has it as Lower Beech. The cottages above Beech-o-Cwmago on the lane to Banks Head are called Beech Cottages and the dwelling at the back on Aston Hill is named Upper Beech.

Nicholas Harding

Notes:

1. Defence Estates Map Ref: 080129PMOPLParishMapsWales52122V1 16 May 2008.
2. Eyton, Richard William. *Antiquities of Shropshire* (1854) Volume 11, p.155. All twelve volumes of this important series of the documentary history of Shropshire in the 12th & 13th centuries, are available for viewing as digital facsimiles through the online digital library of the Hathi Trust: <http://www.hathitrust.org> Printed copies of the same are available from bookseller Amazon.
3. *ibid*, p.156
4. *ibid*, p.195
5. Lloyd, William V. *The Descent of Dame Margaret Broughton, wife of Sir Griffith Vaughan*. Collections Historical & Archaeological Relating To Montgomeryshire And Its Borders. Volume 14, p.116, Powys Land Club, 1881. Downloadable digital facsimiles of some 19th century volumes of the Montgomery Transactions, including this one, are available through *Internet Archives*:
<http://www.archive.org/search.php?query=powys%20land%20club>
6. *ibid*, p.122
7. *An Exact Plan Of Upper Broughton Being Part of the Estate of Walter Waring Esqr.* Shropshire Archives Ref. 552/8/623
8. Inland Revenue document dated 19 June 1880. Plas Madoc deeds courtesy of Graham Hallett
9. Conveyance dated 29 September 1841 from *The Reverend John Meredith Edwards and others to Mr Isaac Maddox and his Trustees*. Plas Madoc deeds.
10. **Tithe Apportionment and Map: Broughton Township Parish of Bishop's Castle**. Shropshire Archives.
11. *ibid*
12. a.r.p = acres.roods.perches: 40 perches = 1 rood, 4 roods = 1 acre
13. *Bishop's Castle: Opening of a Chapel*. Shrewsbury Chronicle 7 November 1862.
14. Ordnance Survey Six Inch County Series (1901).
15. Field, Clive D. *Church and Chapel in Early Victorian Shropshire: Returns from the 1851 Census of Religious Worship*. Shropshire Record Series V.8. Centre for Local History, University of Keele 2004.
16. Ordnance Survey County Series 1:2500 (1884).
17. **Tithe Apportionment and Map: Broughton Township Parish of Bishop's Castle**. Shropshire Archives.
18. *An Exact Plan Of Upper Broughton Being Part of the Estate of Walter Waring Esqr. Situate in the Parish of Bishop's Castle in the County of Salop. Taken and Delineated A. D. 1756 By Meredith Jones of Brecon Land Surveyor.* Shropshire Archives Ref. 552/8/623

19. *Abstract of the Title of the Rev^d. John Meredith Edwards to Cwm Iago in Bishopscastle Parish.* Plas Madoc deeds.
20. *ibid.*
21. *Fine for leasehold of Broughton Thomas Broughton of Broughton and his wife Mary to Stephen Streete of Shrewsbury and Charles Bright of Ledum.* Transcription in the possession of Sheila Leeke.
22. *Abstract of the Title of the Rev^d. John Meredith Edwards to Cwm Iago in Bishopscastle Parish.* Plas Madoc deeds.
23. *Map of: Green Farm in the Parish of Bps Castle and County of Salop the property of Shadrach Edwards Esqr.* Plas Madoc deeds.
24. Google Earth.

A History of Bishop's Castle

Daniel Franklin, aged 14, is a member of the Lydbury North Young Archaeologists Group.

Bishop's Castle was originally a castle built around 1085-1100 by the Bishops of Hereford to protect the country from the Welsh. The actual town was established by the Normans in 1127 to encourage trade between the English and the Welsh. The castle would have been a Motte and Bailey. The Normans created many towns like Bishop's Castle, some with additional walls to protect the border with Wales.

By the late thirteenth century the town was actually named Bishop's Castle in official documents. Around 1570, Bishop's Castle and its surrounding lands became, briefly, Crown property. Elizabeth I sold the town and the holdings round it to the Walcots of Walcot Hall and in 1573 granted a new Royal Charter, which established the positions of Bailiff, Recorder and fifteen Aldermen. This council was self-perpetuating and, for the first time in the town's history, had the powers of self-government and so the town was free from oversight by the bishops or church. The new Borough had its own prison, under the Town Hall, and the right to elect two Members of Parliament. Bishop's Castle played little part in the Civil War, but probably had royalist sympathies since William Walcot was a loyalist and page at the execution of King Charles I.

During the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, Bishop's Castle became one of England's notorious 'rotten boroughs'. Votes of 'free' men, the burgesses of the town, were bought to make sure that certain candidates were elected by the landowning classes. Such bribery ruined the Walcots. In 1763, their estates were bought by the wealthy Clive of India and from then on, the Clive family controlled the constituency of Bishop's Castle and its elections until the Reform

Act of 1832. This Act deprived 56 ‘rotten boroughs’, including Bishop’s Castle, of both their Members of Parliament. The town continued to survive on its weekly markets, when livestock was traded in the street. This continued until World War I, when the council bought the paddock behind the Kings Head. At the May Fair farmers would hire labourers for the coming year. The Town’s many pubs were overflowing and the Boars Head was famous for its bare fist fights which took place on the corner of the Horse Fair. Horse Fair was renamed as Station Street where the town’s railway, “which went nowhere” lasted against all the odds for seventy years. It never made any money and closed in 1935 when it sold off all the rolling stock, sleepers and other bits.



The old Primary School (now the pharmacy) was created from a bequest by Mrs. Mary Morris, who had worked to educate the poorer children of Bishop’s Castle. She left £200 (a lot in those days) in her will to build this school, named Mr. Wright’s Charity School, in honour of her first husband.

The Church was built, on the opposite side of the town to the castle, in 1291. Of the original church only the tower and font remain. The church was partly destroyed by fire in 1592 and again in 1644. In 1861 the church was completely rebuilt. The lych gate was where the dead bodies were brought to meet the clergy. The town still has several old public houses and



hotels. The Three Tuns and Six Bells still brew their own beers in old buildings. The Three Tuns got a licence to brew in 1642. The Boars Head is quite an old building; if you look at the end then you can see where the original roof line would have been. Also on the building are carved decorative barley twists. The Castle Hotel is built partly on the site of the original castle. Only a few small parts of the castle wall remain – a bit behind the houses on Market Street and Bull Street.



The Porch House was built on two burgage plots, each about 33 feet wide. It was built around 1564. Sometime during the 1700s the house was doubled in size by an extension at the back. The two shop fronts (facing onto the High Street) have probably been there for most of the building's history.



The Red Lion Shut is a small passage that leads from the High Street into Union Street. In the days of the Victorians this shut went past Tugg's Passage into Wootton Square. In this passage there were two houses and in Wootton Square there were nine. Some of these houses were destroyed to make way for a new road from Church Street to Union Street. The owner of these houses gave the land for the road and because of that the road was named after him – Harley Jenkins Street – as he wished.

Today's Town Hall was built around 1760. It would have had a gaol, stocks and whipping post. The lower of the two rooms is known as the 'Charter Room'; it was named so to mark the 400th anniversary of the town's charter. On past market days women would bring vegetables, butter and other foods to sell. The two barred windows are thought to have been part of the gaol which would have been where the public toilets are now.



Bishop's Castle is no longer a borough, no longer has a castle or a railway. But it has a Mayor and Town Council who are preceded on special occasions by two splendid silver maces.

Daniel Franklin

Lower Down

Emily Williams, aged 7, is a member of Lydbury North Young Archaeologists Group

I live at Lower Down and my family have been farmers here since 1951. I like living here as we have many interesting places to visit.

When we walk our dogs down **'Within's Lane'** we pass a prehistoric site, possibly dating from the Iron Age. We know this as there are the remains of banks, ditches and **'enclosures'** where animals were kept.

People living at this time would have ploughed small areas with a plough called an **'ard'** and grown crops of barley, wheat, oats, kale and cabbages. The wheat seeds would have been ground down using a quern. I tried



*Picture 1: Aerial view of Lower Down
(Courtesy of the Lydbury Field Group)*



*Picture 2: Pre-historic enclosures
(Re: NMR, CPT 16317)*

doing this; it was fun but took a long time to make flour. The Iron Age people kept sheep, pigs, oxen and goats. The oxen would have pulled the 'ard'.

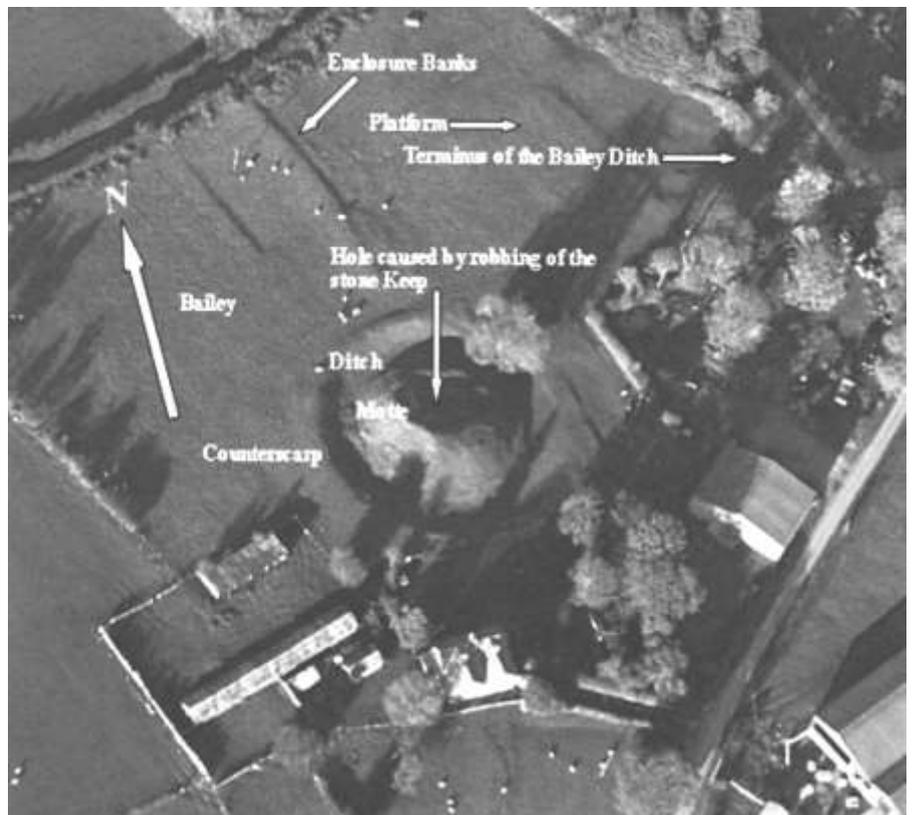


*Picture 3: Iron Age lady
(Courtesy of Catuvellauni:
Iron Age Living History)*

Sheep were very important as people plucked their wool to make clothes. Using a drop spindle they would make woollen yarn. The yarn would then be woven to make woollen cloth. I tried using the drop spindle; it was difficult to make yarn. The animals were kept so people could eat their meat and use their bones and horns to make needles, pins and combs. Milk was also taken from animals.

Iron Age houses were round and built of wood. The walls were made using 'wattle and daub' or dry stone walling. The roofs were turfed or 'thatched' with straw or reeds. In the houses there would be a fire place called a hearth. The hearth would light up the house and be used for cooking and keep it all warm.

Near to our house is a site called a 'Motte and Bailey' built in about 1080. It is a big mound with a deep ditch around it. It was built as a 'symbol of power'. To begin with there would have been a wooden tower on top and later a stone tower. We walked to the top and saw some old stones in the turf.



*Picture 4: The Norman Motte and Bailey at Lower Down
(Courtesy of the Lydbury Field Group)*

On our lane, we have a stone carved pillar and near the Motte and Bailey there are two. These were put there by Edward Walcot, 1st Earl of Powis, in 1790. He owned the land at this time and would have come here and driven through the pillar gate posts, showing off his wealth.



*Picture 5: Walcot Estate gateposts to the Motte and Bailey
(Courtesy of the Lydbury Field Group)*

At the far end of the farm we have 'The Up Down' field and this has examples of medieval ploughing using an ox and also 19th century steam ploughing.



*Picture 6: Medieval ridge and furrow with 19c. steam ploughing.
(Courtesy of the Lydbury Field Group)*

The Christopher Train Essay Prize Winners 2009-2011

2009	Journal 20	Mike Green	The Lost Roads of the Clive Estate
2010	Journal 21 suppl. 1	Nicholas Harding	Aston Mill Farm and the Oaker Estate at Aston on Clun
2010	Journal 21 suppl. 1	Julu Lund	The History of Lydbury North
2010	Journal 21 suppl. 1	Taliesin Lund	Archaeology
2011	Journal 22 suppl.	Nicholas Harding	Cwm Iago and Green Farm, Bishop's Castle
2011	Journal 22 suppl.	Daniel Franklin	A History of Bishop's Castle
2011	Journal 22 suppl.	Emily Williams	Lower Down

